

beginner in pathology might be misled by the orderly presentation of these topics unless he had read more discursive accounts elsewhere.

The definition and scope of "special" and "general" pathology—and indeed of pathology itself—is a matter of opinion, and the choice of new subjects to discuss in a book of this kind is obviously difficult. Notes on exfoliative cytology and medical genetics are welcome, but other topics—such as clinical immunology, acid-base balance, or the classification of viruses—are surely less appropriate. And, if space is short, why not expand the haematology section into a separate account?

Several new illustrations have been added to this edition. Some are helpful, but all drawings of microscopical appearances should carry the relevant magnification. There are useful addenda which summarize normal weights and measures of organs and the interpretation of various staining procedures. Indexing and cross-referencing are satisfactory.

R. L. CARTER.

Spinal Manipulation

Vertebral Manipulation. 2nd edition. By G. D. Maitland, A.U.A. (Pp. 179+x; illustrated. 48s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

The fact that a second edition of this book has been called for within four years shows how eager many physiotherapists are to master and carry out spinal manipulation.

Patients will be weaned from their present-day dependence on bonesetters only when vertebral manipulation becomes widely available within the medical orbit. This policy carries two advantages. Firstly, when the

quickest way to get a patient on his feet again is spinal manipulation, he can receive it immediately at the hands of the trained physiotherapist acting expertly and ethically on the diagnosis and at the request of a doctor. Secondly, it avoids treatment being given in vain for diseases wholly outside the scope of manual methods.

This is just the knowledge that this book, by a physiotherapist for physiotherapists, offers. Examination of the patient is accurately set out on a groundwork of applied anatomy, the function of each moving part being assessed in turn. Then two grades of passive movement are described: mobilization, consisting of a series of oscillations imparted to the spinal joint by the physiotherapist's finger tips; and manipulation. When it becomes clear that stronger methods are called for, a second series of manipulative techniques is advocated. All these measures are clearly illustrated by line drawings.

If British physiotherapists manifest the same welcome initiative as has been shown towards this work in Australia, the time will soon be past when a medical man searches in vain for a physiotherapist skilled in vertebral manipulation. Hence this book deserves a warm welcome and a wide audience.

JAMES CYRIAX.

Poison in Pont-St.-Esprit

The Day of St. Anthony's Fire. By John G. Fuller. (Pp. 310. 40s.) London: Hutchinson. 1969.

On an August day in 1951 Dr. Gabbai, one of the three general practitioners serving the

village of Pont-Saint-Esprit, in Southern France, got back from his summer holiday to find in the surgery a crowd of patients all suffering from what appeared to be a peculiar form of food-poisoning. The first patient interviewed was the head of a family of 13, and he stated that seven of the family had been taken acutely ill, while six others had been spared. Further questioning revealed the peculiar fact that, although all had the previous evening eaten from the same casserole, those who had gone down with the poisoning had been seated on one side of the table, while those who escaped it had all been seated opposite. The explanation? Two loaves from different bakeries.

For anyone with a taste for the more sophisticated species of detective story, the nicer sort of diagnostic riddle, the kind of epidemiological conundrum where the identification of the responsible agent hovers uncertainly between the alternatives of bacterial, chemical, or diabolical—for all such readers this book is strongly to be recommended. The whole story has an overwhelmingly Gallic flavour of frenzy and disarray. The mayor and all manner of officials confer for long hours in the Hotel de Ville, Commissioner Sigaud is cast in the role of a local Maigret, poisoned ducks convulse in the farmyard, and hardly anyone in the end is satisfied about the truth of the matter.

Physical symptoms were followed by a terrifying epidemic of psychotic disturbance. The official explanation was of flour having been contaminated by an organic mercury fungicide, but much of the evidence points to a variety of ergot poisoning. The similarity of the symptoms to those of L.S.D. effects is startling.

GRIFFITH EDWARDS.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Medical and Surgical Cardiology. By William Cleland, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., et al. (Pp. 1160+x; illustrated. 220s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1969.

Progress in Medicinal Chemistry. Vol. 6. Edited by G. P. Ellis, F.R.I.C., and G. B. West, B.Pharm., D.Sc. (Pp. 372+xii; illustrated. 140s.) London: Butterworths. 1969.

Chromosomale Aberrationen und Psyche. By W. Züblin. (Pp. 159+iv. 84s.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1969.

Practical Treatment in Psychiatry. Edited by J. L. Crammer, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.M. (Pp. 162+xii. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1969.

Electrocardiography for the Anaesthetist. 2nd edition. By W. N. Rollason, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S. (Pp. 147+xvi; illustrated. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1969.

Diagnostic Cytology and Its Histopathologic Bases. 2nd edition. By Leopold G. Koss, M.D. (Pp. 653+xviii; illustrated. 250s.) London: Pitman. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. 1969.

Parasitology: Identification of Helminths. By R. A. Lambert, F.I.M.L.T. (Pp. 64+v; illustrated. 10s.) London: Butterworths. 1969.

Blinded in War. A Model for the Welfare of all Handicapped People. By F. Le Gros Clark, M.A. (Pp. 88; illustrated. 10s.) Royston: Priory Press. 1969.

Drugs: The Parents' Dilemma. By A. R. K. Mitchell, M.R.C.P.Ed., D.P.M. (Pp. 116; illustrated. 10s.) Royston: Priory Press. 1969.

Communication and Social Order. By Hugh Dalziel Duncan. (Pp. 475. 25s. 6d.) London: Oxford University Press. 1969.

Operating Theatre Technique. By Raymond J. Brigden, S.R.N. 2nd edition. (Pp. 712+viii; illustrated. 100s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1969.

Historical Vignettes of Modern Anaesthesia. Series 2. Edited by David A. Davis, M.D. (Pp. 128+xi; illustrated. 47s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1969.

Modern Perspectives in International Child Psychiatry. Edited by John G. Howells, M.D., D.P.M. (Pp. 878+xvii; illustrated. 168s.) Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1969.

Pediatrics. 14th edition. By Henry L. Barnett, M.D. (Pp. 1847+xxv; illustrated. 215s.) London: Butterworths. 1969.

Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology. Vol. 3. Colloquium on Health and Ageing of the Population. Edited by M. F. Lowenthal and A. Zilli. (Pp. 148+vi; illustrated. 69s.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.

Diabetes. Proceedings of the Sixth Congress of the International Diabetes Federation, Stockholm, Sweden, 30 July–4 August 1967. Edited by J. Östman. (Pp. 928+xi; illustrated. 440s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1969.

New Findings in Blood Flowmetry. Edited by Chr. Cappelen, jun., M.D. (Pp. 223; illustrated. N. Kr. 130.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. 1969.

Endocrine and Genetic Diseases of Childhood. Edited by Lytt I. Gardner, M.D. (Pp. 1072+xviii; illustrated. 289s.) London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1969.

Anatomy for Anaesthetists. 2nd edition. By Harold Ellis, F.R.C.S., and Margaret McLarty, D.A., B.Litt. (Pp. 342+x; illustrated. 55s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1969.

Physiopathology of Adipose Tissue. Third International Meeting of Endocrinologists, Marseilles, 9–12 May 1968. Edited by J. Vague. (Pp. 439+xii; illustrated. 230s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1969.

Hutchinson's Food and the Principles of Nutrition. 12th edition. By Hugh M. Sinclair, F.R.C.P., and Dorothy F. Hollingsworth, O.B.E., B.Sc. (Pp. 644+viii; illustrated. 120s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1969.

New Popular Science Encyclopedia of the Sciences. Edited by William B. Sill and Norman Hoss. (Pp. 757; illustrated. 70s.) London: George Allen & Unwin. 1969.

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Vol. 9. Edited by Geoffrey H. Bourne. (Pp. 290+x; illustrated. 200s.) London: Pitman. 1968.

Symposium on Medicine. Edited by N. Islam, M.B., F.R.C.P.(Ed.). (Pp. 343. 12s.) Dacca: Institute of Postgraduate Medicine. 1969.